

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A random drawing auction system based on an entrance fee profit model, the auction system including at least one seller's computer terminal and at least one buyer's computer terminal connected to the auction system through Internet, the auction system comprising:

a database unit storing auction condition information comprising an open market selling price, auction quantity, auction duration, an initial entrance fee and an entrance fee type of an item auctioned through the Internet, bid history information of a buyer wishing to purchase the item through the Internet, and bid details information of the item; and

a random drawing auction processing unit comprising:

an item registration-~~unit~~ module allowing a seller to register auction condition information of an item or directly register the auction condition information and posting the item and the auction condition information to a web site when an auction start time of the registered item is encountered;

a bid qualification determiner module determining whether a buyer is qualified for bidding for an item based on the buyer's bid history information in response to the buyer's request for permission to bid for the item;

a bid execution-~~unit~~ module requesting the buyer to pay an initial entrance fee of an item when a buyer is determined as being qualified for bidding for the item, collecting an initial entrance fee of the item from the buyer, requesting the buyer to set a tender price for the item, and inputting the tender price;

a bid terminator module determining whether to terminate a bid for an item based on at least one among auction duration of the item, for which the bid is being executed by the bid execution-~~unit~~ module, and an accumulated entrance fee resulting from the bid of each of buyers for the item;

a successful bidder selector module calculating a reference contract price using a minimum contract price and a maximum contract price of an item and a random number induced by a random probability function after a bid for the item is terminated, comparing the reference contract price with a tender price set by each of buyers, and selecting as a successful bidder a buyer that has set a tender price closest to the reference contract price or close in a predetermined sequence to the reference contract price; ~~and~~

a delivery/payment processor module collecting a tender price set by a buyer selected as a successful bidder, performing a process to deliver an item to the successful bidder, and giving a sales payment to a seller of the item; and

an entrance fee refund processor module, if the entrance fee type of the item is a variable type where an initial entrance fee varies with an accumulated entrance fee of the item and a total number of bidders for the item which are obtained, comparing the accumulated entrance fee of the item with a maximum payable bid price of the item after the bid for the item is terminated, and refunding each of bidders having bidden for the item an amount of money obtained by dividing a surplus of the accumulated entrance fee by a total number of the bidders when the accumulated entrance fee exceeds the maximum payable bid price, but otherwise not refunding.

2. (Currently Amended) The random drawing auction system of claim 1, wherein the item registration-unit module calculates a maximum payable bid price, which can be paid as a sale payment for the item, using an open market selling price and auction quantity of the item.

3. (Original) The random drawing auction system of claim 2, wherein the auction condition information further comprises a contract price setup range for the item, the buyer's bid history information comprises at least one among a total bid count and a total bid amount of a buyer obtained for an item or during a predetermined period of time, and the bid details information of the item comprises information on a bidder bidding for the item and an accumulated entrance fee resulting from bidders' bidding for the item.

4. (Currently Amended) The random drawing auction system of claim 3, wherein the bid qualification determiner module determines that the buyer is unqualified for bidding for the item when a total bid count or a total bid amount of the buyer obtained for the item or during a predetermined period of time exceeds a predetermined maximum available bid count or a predetermined maximum available bid amount, respectively.

5. (Currently Amended) The random drawing auction system of claim 3, wherein if an entrance fee type of an item is a fixed type where an initial entrance fee is set as a final entrance fee, the bid terminator module terminates a bid for the item when an accumulated entrance fee of the item reaches a maximum payable bid price set for the item or when an auction end time of the item is encountered even though the accumulated entrance fee of the item does not reach the maximum payable bid price.

6. (Currently Amended) The random drawing auction system of claim 3, wherein if an entrance fee type of an item is ~~[[a]]the variable type where an initial entrance fee varies with an accumulated entrance fee of the item and a total number of bidders for the item which are obtained after the bid for the item is terminated~~, the bid terminator module terminates the bid for the item when an auction end time of the item based on the auction duration of the item is encountered.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) The random drawing auction system of claim 5, wherein the delivery/payment processor module gives a seller of the item an amount of money not exceeding the maximum payable bid price in the accumulated entrance fee of the item and a tender price collected from a successful bidder for the item as a sales payment for the item.

9. (Currently Amended) The random drawing auction system of claim 1, wherein the successful bidder selector module calculates an absolute value of a difference between a reference contract price of an item and each of tender prices, selects as a successful bidder a bidder having set a tender price giving a minimum absolute value, or the successful bidder selector selects as the successful bidder a bidder having set a tender price closest to the reference contract price or close in a predetermined sequence to the reference contract price among tender prices that are at least or do not exceed the reference contract price.

10. (Currently Amended) In a computer system storing A—a random drawing auction method based on an entrance fee profit model in a database unit, the computer system including at least one seller's computer terminal and at least one buyer's computer terminal connected to the computer system through a communications network, the random drawing auction method executingcomprising the operations of:

(a) receiving auction condition information comprising an open market selling price, auction quantity, auction duration, an initial entrance fee and an entrance fee type of an item from a seller wishing to sell the item through ~~Internet~~the communications network, registering the auction condition information in ~~a—the database unit,~~ and posting the item and the auction condition information when an auction start time of the item is encountered;

(b) determining whether a buyer accessing through the ~~Internet communications network~~ is qualified for bidding based on bid history information of the buyer in response to the buyer's request for permission to bid for the item, collecting an entrance fee of the item from the buyer when it is determined that the buyer is qualified, and requesting the buyer to set and input a tender price of the item;

(c) determining whether to terminate the bid for the item based on at least one among the auction duration of the item and an accumulated entrance fee resulting from the bid of each of buyers for the item;

(d) recognizing that the entrance fee type of the item is a variable type where an initial entrance fee varies with an accumulated entrance fee of the item and a total number of bidders for the item which are obtained when the bid for the item is terminated, comparing the accumulated entrance fee with the maximum payable bid price, determining whether to refund according to the result of the comparison, and refunding some of the initial entrance fee of the

item to each of the buyers having bidden for the item;

[[(d)]] (c) calculating a reference contract price using a minimum contract price and a maximum contract price of the item and a random number induced by a random probability function after the bid for the item is terminated, comparing the reference contract price with a tender price set by each of the buyers, and selecting as a successful bidder a buyer that has set a tender price closest to the reference contract price or close in a predetermined sequence to the reference contract price; and

[[(e)]] (f) collecting the tender price set by the buyer selected as the successful bidder, performing a process to deliver the item to the successful bidder, and giving a sales payment to the seller of the item.

11. (Original) The random drawing auction method of claim 10, wherein operation (a) comprises calculating a maximum payable bid price, which can be paid
as the sale payment for the item, using the open market selling price and the auction quantity of the item.

12. (Original) The random drawing auction method of claim 11, wherein operation (c) comprises, if an entrance fee type of the item is a fixed type, terminating the bid for the item when the accumulated entrance fee of the item reaches the maximum payable bid price or when an auction end time of the item is encountered even though the accumulated entrance fee of the item does not reach the maximum payable bid price.

13. (Currently Amended) The random drawing auction method of claim 11, wherein operation (c) comprises, if an entrance fee type of the item is [[a)]] the variable type, terminating the bid for the item when an auction end time of the item based on the auction duration of the item is encountered.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) The random drawing auction method of claim 11, wherein operation ~~[(c)]~~(f) comprises giving the seller of the item an amount of money not exceeding the maximum payable bid price in the accumulated entrance fee of the item and the tender price collected from the successful bidder for the item as the sales payment for the item.

16. (Currently Amended) The random drawing auction system of ~~claim 7~~ claim 1, wherein the delivery/payment processor module gives a seller of the item an amount of money not exceeding the maximum payable bid price in the accumulated entrance fee of the item and a tender price collected from a successful bidder for the item as a sales payment for the item.

17. (Currently Amended) The random drawing auction method of ~~claim 14~~ claim 10, wherein operation ~~[(c)]~~(f) comprises giving the seller of the item an amount of money not exceeding the maximum payable bid price in the accumulated entrance fee of the item and the tender price collected from the successful bidder for the item as the sales payment for the item.